

gone illness had been extended to them, and which they could not bear to share again with their brothers and sisters." The child in this condition needs as much care and as judicious management, both bodily and mental, to bring it back to health, as would be called for in the case of some adult monomaniac or hypochondriac.

It may not be generally known that stammering, and the same is true of somnambulism, is more frequent in the children of the educated than in those of the poor, and this is attributed to the fact that the infirmity comes with self-consciousness, with mental culture, and with the highly-wrought nervous system. For these reasons, also, stammering is rare before the commencement of the second dentition.

A large part of this lecture is devoted to the consideration of the tardy acquirement of the power of speech. This, as is well known, does not generally indicate a deficiency of intelligence, and the fears of parents may often be quieted by pointing out to them that the child notices modulations of sound, and that he is able to give expression to his ideas by means of pantomime. One case is reported in which aphasia was a symptom of disease of the right side of the brain. This case occurred in a little girl only five years old, who had sunstroke, followed by coma of a fortnight's duration, and attended with hemiplegia of the right side, and with loss of speech. At the end of two years she had grown, and looked healthy and intelligent; but although she had partially recovered the use of her limbs, she had regained to a very limited extent the power of speech.

Dr. West says that he has been made to a great degree a specialist against his will, and has thus been compelled to limit his endeavours to the culture of but a small part of the field of medicine, but we think he has, in this particular at least, no cause to quarrel with fate, for his lines have fallen in places which must be to him exceedingly pleasant. Perhaps the fondness for children which he admits he possesses, and the ability to sympathize with them in their sorrow, has been of more service to him than he suspects in the study and treatment of their diseases. We regard the little book, unpretending as it is, as a worthy companion to his systematic treatise on "Diseases of Children," and think Mr. Lea has done a service to medical literature by republishing it in this country.

J. H. H.

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ART. XXX.—*Ueber den Einfluss des Höhenklima's auf verschiedene Erkrankungen, mit Rücksicht auf die im Sanatorium in Aussee in Steiermark gemachten Beobachtungen.* Von Dr. J. SCHREIBER in Aussee. Separat-Abdruck aus Kisch's Jahrbuch für Balneologie, Hydrologie, Klimatologie, 1871. 1. Bd. 8vo. pp. 22. Wien, 1871.

*On the Influence exercised upon different Forms of Disease by the Climate of Mountainous Regions, with reference to Observations made at the Sanatorium at Aussee in Steiermark.* By Dr. J. SCHREIBER, of Aussee. Republished from Kisch's "Jahrbuch" for 1871. Vol. I.

THIS work by Dr. Schreiber contains, considering its size, a very large amount of valuable practical observations. As principal of a mountain sanitary institution, he briefly sketches the diseases and the cases of impaired health, the cure or amelioration of which is best attained in the air and meteorological conditions of elevated places.

In the Sanatorium at Aussee, during the year 1870, 146 patients were treated. Of these, 89 were affected with definite diseases, while the remaining 57 were short-breathed, weakly individuals, the victims of too close and prolonged intellectual labour or of some moral disturbance; or whose impaired health, without any recognized or actual cause, is ranked by physicians under the general category of "unwell or out of sorts." To these cases of impaired health not the result of recognizable local lesions, the air of elevated regions is found by experience to be highly favourable, and the improvement gained by exposure to it, with aid simply of appropriate diet, clothing, and regimen, is believed to be in the majority of cases complete and permanent.

The following are presented by Dr. S. as the leading diseases and conditions of impaired health successfully treated in the Sanatorium at Aussee: Convalescence, chlorosis, dyspepsia, chronic catarrh of the stomach, intumescence of spleen, non-specific infiltration of the inguinal glands, pleural exudation, retro-peritoneal exudation, and scrofulous, anæmic, and chlorotic subjects generally.

Dr. S. refers to two groups of diseases in which the curative influence of a mountainous climate has been found to exert most triumphantly a healing influence, namely, simple lesions of the nervous system, and chronic diseases of the respiratory organs. Cases are described in extenso of nervous asthma, chronic pneumonia, and chronic bronchitis, that were successfully treated.

But the most interesting portion of the work before us is that which relates to the very general immunity of the inhabitants of mountainous tracts from tubercular phthisis, as well as the prevention of the development of the disease in the predisposed, and the marked amelioration or even the arrest of all the prominent symptoms in those who are already affected, wrought by a continued residence in mountain air.

Dr. Gaustor traversed the Alpine ridge which extends from Rottenmann (Steiermark) to Villach (Carinthia), and from Laibach towards Tarvis, crossing, thus, the highest and steepest portion of the mountain chain, and, at the stations at different elevations along the route, he noticed, from the results of inquiries put by him to the resident physicians of the several mountain villages, the extent to which tubercular phthisis prevails in each location. The following are the results of Dr. G.'s investigations.

From Rottenmann, at an elevation of 2184', to Trieben, at an elevation of 2226', for the most part, there are to be met with but very few cases of phthisis.

In the route by Trieben, covered by forest (elevation 2684'), Kalwang (2393'), Mautern (3205'), according to the testimony of the local physicians respectively, cases of consumption do not occur.

From Mautern, southwardly, to Unuzmark (2291'), isolated cases of the disease are occasionally met with. Here the ridge begins again to ascend, and passes over, at an elevation above the sea of 2794', Schauerfeld, the highest point along the route. As the ridge increases in elevation, phthisis again gradually disappears. From Scheifling (2500') to Einöd (2313') phthisis is absolutely unknown, while at the station Friesach (1985') the physicians are frequently called upon to treat cases of the disease.

A very different condition of things prevails along the route from Laibach to Tarvis. Here pulmonary consumption prevails in every village, even at the highest point, Ratschach, at an altitude of 2704' above the level of the sea.

Dr. G. believes himself warranted in assigning an altitude of 2300' as the limit at which there exists an immunity from the occurrence of pulmonary consumption, provided there exist dense forests. But in the absence of forests the line of immunity from the disease will be found to be at a greater elevation. This will be shown by the fact that from Laibach to Travis there is an

absence of forests, the entire route presenting only bare rocky precipices. The fact is explained by Dr. G. by the great daily consumption of carbonic acid gas in the process of vegetation. In his work on "Forests and their Influence on Climate," Becquerel presents a different and perhaps more correct explanation. He ascribes the immunity from lung diseases in Alpine regions clothed with forests, to the circumstance that the latter prevent a rapid evaporation of dews and rains which fall upon the mountain heights, and preserve the atmosphere within and around them of an appropriate moisture.

According to all meteorological observations, the air of those portions of the Himalaya range, of the Andes, and of the Swiss mountains, where there exists an immunity from disease, is very moist, and the dews and rains are there copious. At one of these places, *Chera-Punji*, in Asia, more rain is said to fall than in any other elevated portion of the world.

The same observations were made by Dr. G. in respect to the altitude at which the line of immunity from consumption commences at Lavanthale (*Carinthia*), where he practised his profession for four years.

In Norway, during the year 1870, experiments were made by lodging individuals strongly predisposed to tubercular phthisis in elevated regions, where the general character of the air was decidedly humid; as at Sognefjord and Hardangerfjord. The results of these experiments were so favourable, as to induce the physicians of the neighbourhoods to undertake a renewed course of experiments of a similar kind.

Dr. G. remarks, that the cattle belonging to dwellers in deep valleys are kept during the winter in low, confined, and ill-ventilated stables, in consequence of which, before spring they become phthisical and greatly emaciated; but when summer comes, and these very beasts are driven forth from their miserable stalls in the valley, to graze amid elevated meadows situated upon the acclivities and summits of the mountains, they in a short time regain their health and flesh, so that before long few who saw them leave the valley, looking upon them now, would recognize them as the same beasts.

A horse affected with lung disease, it being shown by percussion that pulmonary tuberculosis had already set in, was turned out to graze upon a mountain meadow, and in a comparatively short time regained his health.

Dr. G. has so far practically tested the immunity from phthisis enjoyed by those residing on the Rudolph Ridge, that he has been induced to counsel a removal of phthisical subjects from other stations to that.

There are many other points of interest contained in the pamphlet before us worthy of notice, but not wishing to extend this article to an unreasonable length, we close here, merely remarking, that the general conclusions of Dr. S. in reference to the beneficial results to be derived by phthisical patients and those labouring under chronic affections, generally, of the respiratory organs, by taking up their residence in mountainous regions, correspond with our own investigations in that direction.

D. F. C.